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Handling a Hypoestronemic Teenager

With a teenager who might be hypoestronemic who comes in and says, "I want to have a good flow—I just don't like being different from the other girls. . . . What kinds of hormones do you use?" I've got a problem I wouldn't treat her, and she'd find another doctor. Because if I put her on a temperature chart and she was ovulating, there would be no reason for me to treat her and I would suggest that she might see someone else whose feelings were different. My counseling would be: (1) Let's find out if you're ovulating and (2) If you're ovulating, then Mother Nature has allowed you in a lucky fashion to have hypomenorrheic flows. When you want to get pregnant, look at how lucky you've been—your iron reserves are great.

-ALVIN F. GOLDFARB, MD, Philadelphia Extracted from Audio-Digest Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 22, No. 14, in the Audio-Digest Foundation's subscription series of tape-recorded programs. For subscription information: 1577 East Chevy Chase Drive, Glendale, CA 91206.